



ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Chicago *34th & Kedzie*
MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 18, 1983

TO: Division File

FROM: L.A. Crivello

SUBJECT: General - Cook County - Chicago/State of Illinois -
Santa Fe (C83-116N)

On March 3, 1983, we received a complaint concerning a number of drums dumped near 34th and Kedzie in Chicago. Charles Gebien and Mary Schroeder investigated the complaint and confirmed the presence of several drums of green sludge and a green liquid.

On March 7, 1983 I accompanied Charlie Gebien and Mary Schroeder to the site. Representatives of the Metropolitan Sanitary District were also present. We found approximately 60 (55 gallon) drums. Some were in good condition while others were broken open and rusted. A plastic plating tank was also observed. Some of the drums were labeled - these were:

Thompson Hayward Co. Phosphoric Acid TH
M & T Chemicals - Chromic Acid
*Caterpillar - Joliet, Ill. IM000653 Lot No. 0685233
Dow Versene - Tetraammonium
Tetraammonium salt of ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid
RIN, Inc. Nickle Sulfate 55 gal. drum
* Staufer Chemical Co. Metacote LH - Liquid Iron Phosphate

Some of the liquids we tested with pH paper were found to have a very low pH.

* The drums labeled Caterpillar on the side had the Stauffer label stamped on the lids.

After we had looked over the site on March 7, 1983, we went to the RIN Chemical Co. to find out more about their operation and possibly how their drums had gotten dumped at the site. We found that they broker plating solutions as well as formulate new solutions. The company representative Mr. Wilczek told us that their Nickel Sulfate liquids are not sold in drums it is sold only in smaller pails. He added that plating solutions which contain Nickel Sulfate are sold in drums. At the time we were there he would not give us his customer list, however, he did say that Caterpillar Co. was not one of his clients.

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
DIVISION OF CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION

RONALD L. SCHLOSSBERG

SPECIAL AGENT

Later, I contacted Mr. Sayers of Stauffer Chemical Co. Drums with their labels were found at the site. Mr. Sayers told me that the metacote was a commercial cleaner and that the division of Stauffer that produced this material was sold approximately 1 1/2 years ago so he was not able to trace the drum.

After talking to Mr. Sayers I called Caterpillar in Joliet. They said that they had not purchased metacote for approximately 2 years. Also, all of their used drums go to Myer Drum Reclaimers.

During the March 7 investigation I took 4 samples.

Xl10 Was from a drum with a RIN label preliminary results show a pH of 0.1 Barium at .4 ppm, Chrome at 1800 ppm, Cadmium at .13 ppm, and Lead at 739.3 ppm. The sample was a green liquid.

Xl11 Was taken from another RIN drum. This sample was also a liquid, however, the results indicate that it did not contain a significant quantity of metals and the pH was 4.8.

Xl12 Was taken from a drum of green solid. Nickel or Chrome plated metal pieces were found in these drums.

Xl13 Was taken from a drum labeled Metacote. This sample was also a liquid. The pH was 0.1, Chrome levels were at 800 ppm, Cadmium was 0.12 ppm, and lead was 56.5 ppm.

(Four samples were taken by Mary Schroeder on March 4, 1983. Two of these samples had a pH of less than 2.)

During the March 7 investigation field pH tests revealed that some of the material at the site was hazardous. After initial inquiries at RIN, Staufer, and Caterpillar we contacted the Illinois Department of Law Enforcement's Division of Criminal Investigation. Ronald Schlossberg was assigned to this case [phone no. (815) 726-9190]. I met with him at the site on March 10, 1983. We went over the site and I informed him of what we had accomplished so far.

We decided that first the ownership of the property should be established. Mr. Schlossberg was able to determine after checking the records that part or all of the property belonged to the Santa Fe Railroad. I contacted them and after looking into their records, Railroad representatives discovered that approximately 1/2 of the drums were on railroad property and half were on State of Illinois property.

On April 5, I met with Mr. Langham of the Santa Fe Railroad. He told me that the Railroad would cooperate with the State in getting the site cleaned up and would be willing to pay their share of the clean up costs. He provided me with a copy of the survey of the area. While I was there I was also able to talk with the former owner of the land, Larry Correy. He told me that he sold part of the property to the Capital Development Board and part to the Santa Fe approximately 8-10 years ago.

On April 13, I met with Ron Schlossberg of DCI and Mr. Langham of the Santa Fe Railroad at the site. Mr. Schlossberg told me that he had determined in the course of his investigation that the waste had probably come from a metal finisher (a specialized type of plating in which Nickel or Chrome is plated as a decorative finish). Further tests were needed to verify this so seven additional samples were taken at the site. The samples taken were as follows:

- X201 A white powder in a fiber drum (believed to be the same material sampled on 3/4/83 - X301).
- X202 Water from the plastic plating tank.
- X203 Sample from Dow Drum labeled Versene - a dark green liquid.
- X204 A green solid from a drum sampled on 3/7/83 and previously labeled X112.
- X205 A brown liquid in a Union Carbide drum.
- X206 A light green liquid.
- X207 A brown liquid from a drum labeled Sulfuric Acid.

LAC:pgb

cc: Northern Region
Jim Kelty, Emergency Response
FOS Manager
Jack Barnette, DWPC
Mike Nechvatal
Ron Schlossberg, Div. Criminal Investigation